

Chapter 1 : Using Your Environment to Achieve Your Goals | Personal Excellence

Stanley Furniture asked its suppliers to reformulate finishing materials to reduce VOCs without sacrificing quality and performance when applied to products such as the company's Moondance.

All are pioneers in a new approach to environmental performance called Green Tier. Green Tier is the name of a Wisconsin law that is designed to promote and reward "superior environmental performance" by businesses, industries, and municipalities.. Implemented by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources DNR , the law applies to the entire range of environmental programs - air, wastewater, stormwater, solid and hazardous waste, wetland, and waterways. Participation is entirely voluntary. The impetus for Green Tier came in June , when then-DNR Secretary George Meyer charged a diverse group of interested parties to develop a program that encourages businesses and municipalities to exceed environmental requirements but is not based on mandating standards in law. In April Gov. Jim Doyle signed the resulting legislation, providing a new legal framework designed to create economic value and improve environmental outcomes. The cooperative agreements these companies signed with the DNR reduced the need to mine more than 1, railroad cars of coal by recovering and reburning high-energy ash; reduced hazardous air pollutants 85 percent by using ultraviolet screening and a single DNR permit to cover multiple company facilities; and achieved environmental performance 7. ECPP companies report positive experiences, and all continue to participate under five-year agreements. She was a member of the group that developed the Green Tier legislation. The authors thank Mark McDermid for his invaluable assistance with this article. How Green Tier Works A Green Tier applicant makes a three-part commitment to 1 systematically exceed the minimum environmental requirements; 2 continually improve environmental performance; and 3 work in a transparent manner by providing the DNR and the public ongoing access to information affirming the commitment to performance. In return, the DNR provides positive incentives, such as reduced frequency of inspections and reporting; a single point of contact in the DNR; limited exposure to state civil enforcement if environmental violations are identified and remedied; incentives the Tier II participant explained below identifies and negotiates with the DNR, so long as incentives are proportional to the environmental performance; and public recognition of these environmental leaders for their commitment to superior environmental performance and improvement. There are two tiers of Green Tier participation, each with its own eligibility criteria and commitment requirements. Tier II eligibility requirements are more demanding: The eligible Tier II applicant must have an EMS in place and commit to 1 negotiate a contract with the DNR specifying the superior environmental performance it will deliver and the incentives the DNR will provide, 2 conduct an environmental compliance audit, and 3 report the results to the DNR. If the Tier II audit identifies violations and they are timely corrected, the DNR and the DOJ are prohibited from bringing an enforcement action to collect civil forfeitures. Unique multi-party agreements called "environmental results charters" can commit similarly situated businesses, industries, or groups to a common set of superior environmental performance actions. The key question is: Environmental Results Green Tier provides incentives not only to go beyond compliance in regulated areas but also to address unregulated areas as well, such as water and energy consumption. This creates the opportunity to manage impacts on air, land, and water in an integrated, holistic way, rather than using the traditional, piecemeal approach of separate regulatory programs for each aspect of the environment. Charters allow groups of companies and municipalities to collaborate on environmental objectives like reduction in stormwater runoff or greenhouse gas emissions and to manage environmental risk across sectors, supply chains, or communities. Green Tier also offers the potential for improved environmental results by encouraging regulated entities to invest where environmental benefits are greatest and by encouraging regulators to focus enforcement on poor performers. Business Value Green Tier creates business value by encouraging more effective investment. Tier II participants can negotiate incentives that add value, reduce costs and time, or help solve operational or technological problems. Transparency does not mean a Green Tier participant must give its neighbor a seat on the board of directors. It does mean that program participation is subject to public notice, as well as public meetings, and contract or charter discussions are open to public input. The participant must provide basic

performance information to the public in an annual report to the DNR, documenting that the participant did what it said it would. From these basics, each participant can adapt its Green Tier involvement to meet business and community needs. The company has distinguished itself in the eyes of many people by listening thoughtfully and acting responsibly. Cook regularly holds facilitated meetings with neighbors and community leaders to discuss environmental issues and work on common problems such as odor and noise. Cook attests that when managers listen and respond, genuinely trying to solve problems, the relationship shifts from an adversarial one to a collaborative one. Holsum Dairies, a 3,head dairy farm in eastern Wisconsin, focused its Tier I application on improving nutrient management and storage, and surface and groundwater protection. Holsum plans to build environmental sensitivity, protection, and restoration into its dairy design and operation through its environmental management system. MEGTEC Systems manufactures air flotation dryers and air pollution control equipment used in many industries, including printing, paper making, automotive, and metals coating. In a similar vein, Veridian Homes is working with Dane County and the cities of Madison and Sun Prairie to develop a charter of standards and measures of performance for its developments. That charter is now being shared with the governing bodies of those municipalities before it goes through formal public notice and comment. Answers to three fundamental questions will likely determine the success or failure of Green Tier. First, will the spirit of Green Tier take hold? Collaborative innovation between the DNR and regulated entities is not new, but for Green Tier to work a broad culture of collaboration, trust, and risk-taking shared by the DNR, the regulated community, and the public is needed. Second, will transaction costs be manageable? One key to this is what form public involvement will take and how effective it will be. Third, will incentives be meaningful enough? Incentives the DNR can provide will depend, in part, on how flexible the U. Environmental Cooperation Pilot Program experience is encouraging; available incentives include expedited permitting, reduced reporting frequency, ability to add new equipment without permitting delay, and facility-wide emissions caps. Yet, the most valuable incentive may be one provided by the marketplace - if Green Tier certification becomes a meaningful way for an entity to positively distinguish itself and enhance its competitive position. An entity need not be a Green Tier participant to be eligible for the Environmental Improvement Program; however, the regulated entity must notify the DNR at least 30 days before conducting the audit to qualify for the protections the law provides. Sometimes incorrectly described as "audit immunity," this program provides a limitation on, but not immunity from, civil forfeitures. Rather than enforcement through prosecution by the state DOJ, violations are subject to civil forfeitures through a DNR-issued citation enforceable by the local district attorney. This new approach emphasizes incentives and rewards, rather than regulations and punitive actions. If it works, we should all be winners.

Chapter 2 : Producers Recognized For Achieving Environmental Excellence | Penn State University

In the pursuit of environmental excellence such green teams have been created by environmental champions which, among others, include the Eastman Kodak Company, Xerox, Apple Computer, the Volkswagen Audi Group, British Telecommunications (BT), Merck & Company and Ace Hardware Corporation.

Leveraging on your environment is one of the most important strategies you can utilize in achieving your goals. Why Environment Plays A Role in Achieving Your Goals Some people have no problem setting goals, but they do not use any strategy in achieving their goals. They think goal achievement is all about relying on a brute force and b their sheer desire for the goal. While both factors are very important, they can only get you so far, especially for larger goals. There are two reasons: Advertisement Firstly, motivation is a fleeting quality. Your motivation fluctuates within a certain medium, depending on your level of consciousness, who you are with, what you are doing, the experiences you are faced with. While you may experience moments or periods of peak motivation, this peak motivation does not last for an extended period of time. More reliable methods are needed to achieve our goals. Secondly, your environment largely determines how your energy is utilized. For example, suppose you have water, a mug and a basin. What happens when you pour the water into the mug? Water, having no definite shape, takes the shape of the mug. How about when you pour it into a basin? The water will take the shape of the basin. And what if you pour the water onto the ground? It will become a large puddle, with no particular shape. In this analogy, your energy is like water; Your environment is like the container holding the water. If your environment is well structured, your energy will be channeled into appropriate avenues. If you have a environment that has no structure, your energy will probably be randomly scattered all over the place. If your environment is not conducive toward achieving your goals, you will be wasting a lot of energy trying to go against it every day. You might be able to get through 1 day unscathed based on discipline alone, but beyond that it is an excessive waste of your energy to have to overcome the same stimuli every day. The same applies whether you are trying to cultivate good habits , earn more money, increase your performance, get promoted, gain more sales, improve time management , wake up early , quit coke , improve your posture and any other goals. For those who have read my previous article on 21 days to cultivate good habits , you may have experienced a spike in motivation when you first read the post. Maybe your intended habit was to wake up early at 5am. So for the first few days, you relied on the motivational high to wake up early. Then gradually, you got to the point where the initial motivation dissipated. Your sleeping schedule became exactly the same as when you first started. Dejected, you decided to sign off on that goal altogether, thinking you were not meant to be an early riser. Relying on the initial burst of motivation can only get you so far. You need to use that spike in the beginning to create the environment to ensure your success. Advertisement How I Use Environment For My Goals For example, when I wanted to try out a vegetarian diet 2 years ago, I spent a few days setting up an environment that is conducive for my goals. I went to buy a blender, so I could easily make my own fruit smoothies. I went to the supermarket and stocked up on vegetarian food so I would have a constant food supply at home. I did up a goal sheet for my vegetarian goal, writing out my motivations for trying out the vegetarian diet and plastering the sheet with pictures of nice, appetizing vegetarian food. I set my desktop wallpaper with a picture of a whole variety of juicy, fresh fruits. I told the people around me that I was going to try out vegetarianism for the next 1 month, so they would be walking reminders of my goal. I joined vegetarian online communities to acquaint with like-minded folks. I placed bookmarks of vegetarian sites in my browser. All these were done so I would be able to stick to a vegetarian diet for the entire month. And because I created the right, conducive environment to achieve my goals, I was able to hit my goal, surprisingly easy. In my ongoing plan to improve my fitness level, I joined weekly kickboxing classes, frisbee sessions and badminton sessions with friends. I joined Vipassana Day Course because I wanted to nail in my habit to meditate. Being immersed in such an intensive environment, with the proper facilities and people to guide me along, enabled me to easily integrate the habit into my life when I came back. For example, if you want to reach the 20th storey in a building, the facilities in the building will affect how fast and how much work you need to put in to get to the 20th storey. If your building only has

stairs, you need to climb through 20 whole storeys, perspiring and panting, before you can reach your destination. If your building has escalators, you can reach the 20th storey with minimal movement on your part. If your building has an elevator, you can sail your way up to the top in a matter of minutes. Likewise, if your goal is to have a toned up body, the degree to which your environment is conducive to your goal will determine how successful you are. If you are just going to sign up for a weekly abdominal class at the gym, the results you can see is going to be lesser compared to if you sign up for the class, sign up for another aerobics class, get a membership at a gym with good body-training facilities and get a personal trainer all at the same time. There are many different components in your environment you can play around with, such as the following: This includes your workplace, your office, your home, your room , places you go to or even the country you live in. Change all of the variables, and you will experience dramatic results. Creating your best environment includes any one or a combination of the 3 steps below. The better your environment is, the better it can help you in your goals. Advertisement 1 Using existing environment. Say you decide to lose weight this month. You have a blender you normally use to make milk smoothies. Rather than using the blender to make your usual smoothies, you use it to make healthier, fruit and vegetable smoothies instead. You may also have a swimming pool at your house which you never use. Now, you can leverage it by swimming regularly there. Using the same weight loss goal example, modifying your environment includes: Encouraging your friends to join you in losing weight. Stocking up your fridge with healthy food. Putting up posters of thin, athletic people around your room. Setting your desktop wallpaper with an aspirational model. Writing out your goal and placing it in front of you. Throwing out your larger size clothes and filling out your wardrobe with right-sized or smaller sized clothes in preparation for your new weight. Join a weight loss club. Get a gym membership. Move to a new neighborhood where there are only healthy eateries and no fast food. Think about one of the top goals you have currently and ask yourself these three questions: What are the ways your current environment can support you in your goal? How can you change your environment in such a way that it best helps you achieve your goal? What other environments can you leverage on to generate the best momentum toward your goals? By strategically using your environment for your goals, your goal pursuit process will become much more seamless. I respect your privacy. Unsubscribe whenever you want. Read my Privacy Policy. You May Also Like.

Chapter 3 : Holdings : Achieving environmental excellence : | York University Libraries

New Green Tier legislation promotes and rewards environmental performance while providing regulatory flexibility on everything from land development to manufacturing. Help your business, industry, or municipal clients determine if participating in this voluntary program is right for them. hat do.

The Virginia Manufacturing Assn. Four years ago, Stanley Furniture Co. Also this year, the American Furniture Manufacturers Assn. These awards followed on the heels of two earlier awards for the Martinsville plant. Stanley also was recognized by the U. The performance track program identifies some companies nationally whose environmental efforts have exceeded what was required of them. In , Stanley, which makes bedroom, dining, occasional, home office and home entertainment furniture, became the first AFMA member to put the plan into practice. In December , he was promoted to director of engineering, which includes responsibility for environmental management. We really needed to tell the public we were a good and responsible industry. We decided we would try to develop an environmental management system uniquely available for use by the furniture industry, something everybody could adopt without that much trouble that would bring a lot of uniformity to the industry. This was a way for us to tell the regulatory community, along with the general public, that we did not mind regulation. This is a way of being proactive rather than reactive. Having a new facility gave us the opportunity to do some things we might not have been able to do in an ingrained facility. One of those elements must be an impact analysis that looks at all aspects of environmental impact, from the generation of hazardous waste and air emissions to storm water and general waste. Based on that analysis, the facility must come up with goals to try to better overall environmental performance. We started a recycling program in earnest. We got all our employees involved in that. It was a way we felt they could understand a part of what this EFEC was about. We went through the entire plant. We turned over every trash can in the plant. We found out what kind of things each department was throwing away. We made it a game - a challenge. We told our vendors, "Instead of sending 40 different boxes, why not put everything in two large boxes. A lot of people associate environmental compliance with being expensive. What we wanted to do was make this program as cost effective as we could. Recycling appeared to be a way we could generate bottom-line savings that would give management impetus to continue this. How successful have you been? When the plant opened, we were generating 6. In , that ratio was reduced to 2. As we got into the program, we got more sophisticated in what we were trying to reduce. From recycling, we moved into our finishing room and looked at the amounts of VOCs, hazardous waste and hazardous air pollutants we were generating. How did you cut these? We went back to our suppliers and asked them if they could find ways of reducing the amount of VOCs and hazardous material by substituting other chemicals. They were able to reformulate some of the products we were using and, at the same time, they were more sensitive to the environmental aspects when they presented new products to us. We looked at our product line and sought ways to reduce the amount of finishing materials we use, such as taking advantage of bulk storage, reducing the amount of waste generated when we purge our spray lines or clean our guns. We did not change the coverage on a case, which would change the look. Instead, we changed the way we got there. If we applied six different stains, each time we changed color, we had to clean the lines and incurred waste. We installed multiple lines so changeover frequency is not so great. We made sure that people were mindful that they not be wasteful. How did the suppliers reformulate products? Finishing material suppliers were requested to substitute more environmentally friendly chemistry, particularly acetone, as a replacement for certain HAPs and VOCs. Certain formulations were less difficult than others. Nevertheless, it was a mandatory requirement that the suppliers maintain the integrity, quality and look of the finish. How much have VOC emissions been reduced? Over the first two years of the program, and , we went from 7. We reduced the VOC emissions by almost 14 percent. Our society requires that certain environmental standards, for the common good of the public, have to be followed. The regulatory burden or cost on the industry is definitely a contributor to a market disadvantage. We have to be make the best with the cards that are dealt and compete through innovation. I think the governments in these developing countries will, in the end, be compelled to do what is right. Is Stanley

extending its environmental efforts to its older plants? We plan to make the whole company EFEC certified. I believe this proposition is paying off. Share your thoughts with us in the comments below. You may also like

Chapter 4 : Wisconsin Lawyer: Achieving Environmental Excellence: Green Tier Legislation:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it will create a new system to reward businesses and other organizations that excel in environmental management.

Chapter 5 : Achieving Environmental Excellence | Woodworking Network

Achieving Environmental Excellence begins with overviews of EMS and P2 and with an overview of the integrated EMS/P2 framework that companies can apply to any or all of their operations. The authors then closely examine the five phases of implementing an integrated EMS/P2 program.

Chapter 6 : Achieving Environmental Excellence: Through 3R Waste Management - OnePetro

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